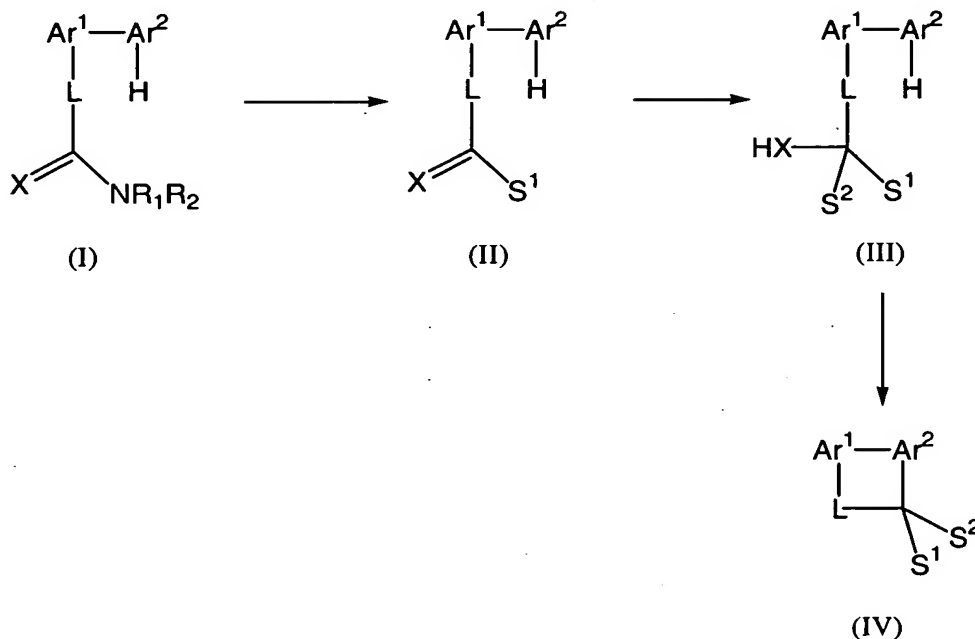


Claims

1) A method of forming a compound of formula (IV):



- 5 said method comprising the steps of:
- reacting a compound of formula (I) with a compound of formula S^1-M to give a compound of formula (II);
 - reacting the compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula S^2-M to give a compound of formula (III); and
 - eliminating H_2X from the compound of formula (III) to give a compound of formula (IV).

wherein

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are independently selected from optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl groups;

X is selected from O, S, NH and NR;

L is a bond or a linking group of 1-2 atoms,

R and R^1 are independently selected from optionally substituted alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl and heteroaryl groups;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, alkylaryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylarylthio and arylalkylthio;

H is bound to a carbon atom C' of Ar^2 ;

C' and the carbon atom of $C=X$ are separated by 3-5 atoms;

S¹ and S² are each selected from optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl groups,

M comprises a metal; and

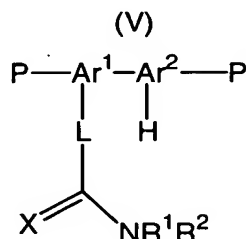
M is linked to S¹ and S² by a carbon-metal bond.

- 2) A method according to claim 1 wherein alkyl is C₁-C₂₀-alkyl, arylalkyl is C₇-C₂₀-arylalkyl, alkylaryl is C₇-C₂₀-alkylaryl, aryl is C₆-C₂₀-aryl, heteroaryl is C₅-C₂₀-heteroaryl, alkoxy is C₁-C₂₀-alkoxy, aryloxy is C₆-C₂₀-Aryloxy, arylalkyloxy is C₇-C₂₀-arylalkyloxy, alkylaryloxy is C₇-C₂₀-alkylaryloxy, alkylthio is C₁-C₂₀-alkylthio, arylthio is C₆-C₂₀-arylthio, alkylarylthio is C₇-C₂₀-alkylarylthio, arylalkylthio is C₇-C₂₀-arylalkylthio.
- 3) A method according to claim 1 wherein Ar¹ and Ar² are phenyl or substituted phenyl.
- 4) A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein X is O or S.
- 5) A method according to any preceding claim wherein L is a bond.
- 6) A method according to any preceding claim wherein R is C1-10 alkyl.
- 7) A method according to any preceding claim wherein R¹ is C1-10 alkyl.
- 8) A method according to any preceding claim wherein R² is C1-10 alkoxy.
- 9) A method according to any preceding claim wherein M is lithium, zinc or Mg-Hal wherein Hal is a halide.
- 10) A method according to any preceding claim wherein S¹ and S² are independently selected from optionally substituted aryl or alkyl.
- 11) A method according to any preceding claim wherein S¹ and S² are independently selected from optionally substituted aryl or alkyl and S¹ and S² are different from each other.
- 12) A method according to any preceding claim wherein Ar¹ and Ar² of the compound of formula (I) are each substituted with a polymerisable group P.
- 13) A method according to any one of claims 1-10 comprising the further step of providing each of Ar¹ and Ar² of the compound of formula (II), (III) or (IV) with a polymerisable group P.

14) A method according to claim 12 or 13 wherein each polymerisable group P is independently selected from a halide or a boron derivative group selected from a boronic acid group, a boronic ester group and a borane group; or a moiety of formula -O-SO₂-Z wherein Z is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted alkyl and aryl.

15) A method according to claim 12 or 13 wherein each polymerisable group P is independently a leaving group capable of participating in a polycondensation reaction, more preferably a metal insertion reaction with a nickel or palladium complex catalyst.

16) A compound of formula (V):



wherein

P, Ar¹, Ar², L, X, R¹ and R² are as defined in any one of claims 1-14;

H is bound to a carbon atom C' of Ar²; and

C' and the carbon atom of C=X are separated by 3-5 atoms.

17) A compound according to claim 16 wherein each Ar¹ and Ar² is phenyl or substituted phenyl.

18) A compound according to claim 16 or 17 wherein X is O or S.

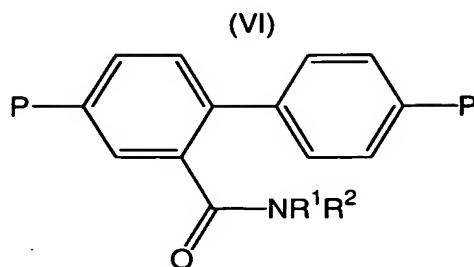
19) A compound according to any one of claims 16-18 wherein L is a bond.

20) A compound according to any one of claims 16-19 wherein each P is independently selected from a halide or a boron derivative group selected from a boronic acid group, a boronic ester group and a borane group.

21) A compound according to any one of claims 16-20 wherein R¹ is C1-10 alkyl.

22) A compound according to any one of claims 16-21 wherein R² is C1-10 alkoxy.

23) An compound of formula (VI):



wherein

P is as defined in claim 14 , R¹ is as defined in claim 7 and R² is as defined in claim 8.

24) Use of at least one of the compounds of formula (V) and/or formula (VI) for the manufacture of compounds of the formula (IV)